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GATEWAY

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No bond for murder suspect

TAYLOR MULLER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The suspect in the criminal murder case of a missing UNO sophomore was denied bond Tuesday morning during his arraignment hearing.

Christopher Edwards, 19, was formally charged Monday with the second-degree murder of Jessica O'Grady while using a weapon other than a firearm. O'Grady has been missing since May 10.

Evidence was presented by the prosecution at the Douglas County Department of Corrections courtroom. This evidence included cell phone records that place O'Grady near Edwards' residence the night of her disappearance, the suspected murder weapon and blood evidence.

Douglas County Attorney Stu Dornan said O'Grady's blood was found on the blade of a Bangkok battle sword, which had been wiped clean before being seized during a search of Edwards' residence. Both Edwards' and O'Grady's DNA were discovered on the handle.

Dornan also said there was an undisclosed amount of O'Grady's blood on Edwards' bedroom walls, ceiling, floor, mattress, comforter and headboard. Investigators also found O'Grady's blood inside the trunk of Edwards' vehicle and on a bloody rag in the garage.

No objections were entered to the alleged facts from either Edwards or his attorney Matt Higgins.

During the hearing Edwards waived his right to a preliminary hearing, which would have ensured the prosecution's case was sufficient for a trial.

Higgins also requested that Edwards be released to his father until trial during the hearing, arguing that Edwards had no previous

criminal record and had cooperated during the initial investigation. The court denied the request.

"Despite voluntary surrender and no prior record, the extreme nature of the offense and seriousness of it, the court will not allow bond," said Judge Edna R. Atkins.

O'Grady's family was present during the hearing and spoke to the media shortly after leaving the corrections facility.

"I'm glad that all of [the evidence] is strong. We have the utmost confidence in the Douglas County attorney and the sheriff," said O'Grady's aunt, Shauna Stanzel. "This is just one part of it, and we're very relieved that he'll be incarcerated until trial."

Stanzel confirmed speculation that O'Grady, an elementary education major, was pregnant at the time of her disappearance. Deputy County Attorney Matthew Kuhse declined to

comment on the possible pregnancy and its impact on the prosecution's case, saying that investigators were unable to confirm her pregnancy.

Anyone with information related to the case should contact the Douglas County Sheriff's Department at (402) 333-1000.



Christopher Edwards

On a Roll



photo by Patrick Doty

Brodie Crockett, 5, makes his own ride out of an empty barrel at the Kids 'n' Cans carnival held in Elmwood park on June 6. The carnival was sponsored by the Omaha Food Bank and hosted by the Public Relations Student Society of America.

Dean faces disciplinary actions for slapping student at banquet

TAYLOR MULLER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A UNO dean will face undisclosed disciplinary actions short of termination after an investigation into an allegation that he slapped a student.

Vanessa Robertson, an international studies senior, reported being slapped by International Studies and Programs Dean Tom Gouttierre at an honor society banquet on April 28. Robertson, the president of the society, said she chose to hand out certificates without Gouttierre so students could attend class.

"Tom was 20 or 30 minutes late and the vice president and the upcoming vice [president], had to leave to take finals, so we handed out the certificates before Tom got there," Robertson said. "He finally arrived and I told him we had already passed out the certificates. He responded by saying, 'No, you haven't,' and I answered, 'Yes, I have.' He then slapped me; it was his left hand on my right cheek."

Robertson filed a report with UNO Campus Security, but was disappointed by the administration's response time.

"I went to the Omaha World-Herald because [the university] wasn't taking it

seriously," Robertson said. "They asked me what I wanted to happen and I said I want him fired."

A press statement was released Tuesday announcing the university's decision, which included unspecified personal actions that do not include termination.

"I am not at liberty to discuss [the actions] because University of Nebraska Board of Regents policy prohibits discussion of specific personnel actions," Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs John Christensen said in the statement.

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents discussed the incident during a closed session Thursday and released a statement in support of the decision.

"The Board and I have been assured that the investigation was thorough and the sanctions imposed by the University of Nebraska at Omaha are supported by the record," said NU President James B. Milliken.

Not everyone agrees with the decision, however.

Renee Butler, another international studies student, has taken classes with Gouttierre and worked in the International Studies and Programs office.

"I don't feel that any actions should

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Tuition hike, facilities plan approved Board of Regents

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

UNO students will continue to see single-digit tuition increases for the 2006-07 academic year.

The Board of Regents voted Thursday to increase tuition by 6 percent, which translates to a per-credit-hour increase of \$8.25 at UNO. Regents also received a final report on laboratory, student and miscellaneous fee increases, which included several new course fees for Aviation Institute students, a slight increase in parking fees and a \$2.50 increase to the new student fee.

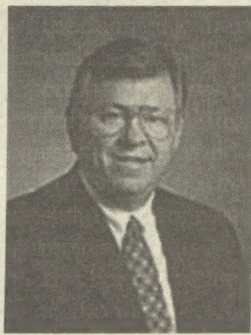
"Last fall we projected a tuition increase of 9 percent for 2006-07 to fund the university's priorities," said Chairman Jim McClurg. "We are very pleased that we were able to keep the increase well below that benchmark."

Included is a 1 percent tuition increase made to meet the requirements of Legislative Bill 605, which provides funding to renovate facilities like the University Library and campus utility infrastructure.

"We delivered a 5 percent increase

and matching 1 percent for LB 605," UNO Student Regent Steve Massara said. "That's still, like, half a percent lower than our peer institutions. That made voting for it a little easier."

The UNO Facilities Development Plan for 2006-15 was also approved by the regents. The plan identifies strengths and weaknesses, such as the insufficient amount of parking on North Campus. It also outlines a method for integrating university land south of Center Street to create three physically and visually connected campuses to be renamed the Dodge, Pacific and Center campuses.



Jim McClurg

"It's exciting. It's fun to see the future," McClurg said.

Some of the proposed changes to UNO include consolidating parking on the Dodge campus to three parking structures, effectively coordinating with the planned Aksarben Village development and

terminating Pine Street into a cul-de-sac.

"I am ecstatic," Massara said. "I think the students are in store for the development of a true metropolitan university."

For more information on the June Board of Regents meeting, see our Web site at unogateway.com.

Area sexual assaults reported to campus security, police

ELIZABETH ZIELINSKI
STAFF WRITER

Over the past two months, UNO has experienced two separate incidents of sexual assault.

Omaha Police reported an attempted sexual assault near the swimming pool in Elmwood Park to UNO Campus Security on April 23. The suspect was described as a Caucasian male, 5 feet 11 inches to 6 feet tall, wearing light colored shorts and a black hooded sweatshirt.

A second report of a sexual assault occurred on May 13. According to the police report, the Scott Village resident and her boyfriend were asleep in her bed when an intruder woke them. When her boyfriend

asked who was in the room, the individual left through the front door of the apartment.

The suspect was described in the report as being a muscular male with short, shaved hair. No arrest was made at the time of the report.

The university is required by law to make crime statistics for the preceding three years available to all students, said Paul Kosel, assistant manager of Campus Security. The most recent information available, for 2002-04, lists only one incidence of sexual assault on campus, which occurred in 2003. The crime statistics for 2005 will not be available until the fall, when they will be mailed to all students.

"I would hope that people would call us in an emergency," Kosel said. "We are in

see **ASSAULT**: Page 4

Three ticketed in connection with UNO volleyball player's death

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

Three people have been ticketed for offenses relating to the death of a UNO volleyball player.

Shelly Thompson, 18, died May 31 from

injuries sustained when she fell out of her boyfriend's car while leaving a party near Lincoln.

Two of the people, Christopher Thompson, 25, and Ann Beckman, also 25, were ticketed on June 5 and the third, Tracey Foreman, 44, was ticketed on June 16.

see **VOLLEYBALL**: Page 4

News You Can Use

COMPILED BY
CHRIS LARSON
LINE EDITOR

Shakespeare on the Green to celebrate 20 years

The Nebraska Shakespeare Festival is gearing up to host its 20th annual Shakespeare on the Green event, which takes place in Elmwood Park behind University Village on campus. The two plays being performed this summer are "The Taming of the Shrew," which runs June 22-25 and July 6 and 8, and "Antony and Cleopatra," which runs June 29-July 2 and July 5, 7 and 9. There

is no cost for admission and picnic dinners are permitted.

Campus organization calls for poetry

The Program for Women and Successful Aging is currently accepting original works of poetry and short prose for review and possible publication in "Celebrate: A Collection of Women's Writings." The 11th volume of the "Celebrate" book will be released and presented at Rites of Spring, an annual event that features an art exhibit, poetry reading, storytelling and other projects.

Submission forms are available at pwsa.unomaha.edu. All submissions

need to be sent to PWSA, Annex 24, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182-0202 by Friday, July 14.

For more information, call 554-4897.

Anna Monardo to host book readings

June 22 and 24

Anna Monardo, chair of the UNO Writer's Workshop, will read from her forthcoming novel, "Falling In Love With Natassia," this month. Doubleday Press will publish her book Tuesday, June 20.

The event will take

place on Saturday, June 24 at 1 p.m. at Bookworm, 8702 Pacific Street.

For more information, visit randomhouse.com/doubleday/email/fallinginlove.

Crime Log

COMPILED BY
CHRIS LARSON
LINE EDITOR

June 2, 2006

12:10 a.m. - Campus Security officer reported liquor law violation north of HPER building. Individuals apprehended not affiliated with the University.

June 5, 2006

3:52 p.m. - Campus Security responded to an individual soliciting magazine sales in L Lot. Subject was issued a Band and Bar letter.
4:06 p.m. - Student reported a second subject soliciting magazine sales at University Village. Second subject was issued a Band and Bar letter.

June 6, 2006

9:00 p.m. - Student reported theft of personal property from vehicle parked in Lot 10. Incident occurred between 9 p.m. Monday, June 5, 2006, and 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 6, 2006.
1:30 p.m. - Faculty member reported theft of University property from Durham Science Center.

Incident occurred between 7 a.m. Sunday, May 7, 2006, and 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 2, 2006.

2:20 p.m. - Student reported theft of personal property from the grounds outside Allwine Hall. Incident occurred Saturday, June 3, 2006, between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

June 7, 2006

2:50 a.m. - Campus Security officer witnessed the theft of a bicycle from Scott Village and recovered the vandalized bicycle in Lot 9.

3:30 a.m. - Campus Security officers witnessed liquor law violations at Scott Village. Non-affiliated individuals removed from campus. Affiliated individual reported for disciplinary actions.

8:50 p.m. - Student reported theft of personal property from vehicle parked in Saint Margaret Mary's. Incident occurred between 8 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.

June 12, 2006

4:39 p.m. - Staff member reported pornographic images being viewed by a visitor the Computer Lab of Peter Kiewit Institute.

GATEWAY

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Get to know UNO Raydell Cordell

COLLEEN O'DOHERTY
STAFF WRITER

Name: Raydell Cordell
Year: sophomore
Major: theater

What are your views on immigration/immigrants in the United States?

I say, hey, if they want to stay here, let them work, let them pay taxes. They shouldn't just be kicked out. What the hell? That's just stupid. If they want to live here then they have to work. So they live here, they work, they pay taxes, the end. Like everybody else.

Who is the chancellor? What do you think the chancellor does?

I don't know.

What are your views on health care?

I think it's ridiculous. I hate how it goes because not everybody can afford insurance. I understand what the hospital is trying to say, but not everybody is rich. I was sick and I went to the doctor to get a prescription. Do you know how much prescription drugs are at Walgreen's? If we didn't have insurance, my bottle would cost \$90. Luckily, we did have insurance and it only cost \$10. But it's just ridiculous.

How do you feel about parking at UNO?

It's crap. Of course, everyone thinks it's crap. My biggest complaint is that I'm getting tired of paying for a parking permit, and on football night or when they use the football field

and everybody and their mom wants to take up a parking spot, and I can't find one. That pisses me off. There are complaints about so many students parking illegally. Well, yeah, because we have no choice. We should have a right to park where we want to on campus because we paid for it.

Do you feel that UNO would benefit from the proposed GLBTA (Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Ally Affairs) Agency?

I really don't know that much about it. If it's like the GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) in high school, that's kind of cool.

What did you think of UNO theater's season this year?

They were really great. I really enjoyed every single last one of them. They were all unique in their own little ways. It was a pretty good season.

What are your views on a smoking ban on campus?

I believe [smokers] should have certain areas they can smoke at. I do agree sometimes it does get annoying walking to classes with people smoking around you.

What are your views on gay marriage?

You should love whoever you love. In the 1960s, that's when interracial marriage wasn't acknowledged. Here we are in 2006 and we're still debating same-sex marriage. If two people love each other, they should be allowed to marry.



photo by Colleen O'Doherty

Raydell Cordell

Where would you like to travel in the world?

I really want to go to London. I just want to see how it is over there. Plus, all the history stuff I want to see. Also, Paris and Rome.

What is the purpose of art?

To express emotions and feelings in a creative manner.

What is your favorite quote?

'My favorite toy is the imagination.' That's my quote.

London called: Annual UNO trip abroad answered

CHARLEY REED
ASSISTANT ARTS AND LEISURE AND PEOPLE EDITOR

A winter-break trip for criminal justice students, which started 30 years ago, has now become a two-week course that includes more than 100 students from three different departments.

This May, graduate and undergraduate students led by William Wakefield, criminal justice professor; Chris Allen, communications professor; and Jody Neathery-Castro, political science professor went on a tour of London to get a better understanding of how individual fields held up when compared to their colleagues across the pond. The result, as is often the case, was a culture shock.

"Driving conditions were the most important thing to pay attention to," said Terry Reed, a criminal justice senior. "If you are crossing the street when a vehicle has the right of way, they are not afraid to let you know and will not stop for you."

The same went for London's cuisine. "This was my first time going overseas so I was really excited to see what it was like," said Jimmy Ferrin, a communications alumnus. "The food is not as good as I hoped. I think I lived on Cadbury chocolate and steak and ale pie."

Even though students used the spring semester to prepare for the trip, Wakefield believes some differences cannot be appreciated until students personally experience them.

"The first thing students notice immediately is that most of the police officers

in London don't use guns or even protective vests," Wakefield said. "Americans can't even fathom that."

More than just the cultural differences, students get to see how different America's communication, political and legal systems are from a country that

have taken many directions and so have theirs."

For students, many of whom have never been overseas, this truth hits them harder than they expect.

"Learning about worldwide communication, and the differences in culture and communication between America and London was one thing in the classroom," said Alexandra May,

reputations and power was really what put the whole thing in perspective and made it click with me."

The most important aspect of this trip for faculty members is that the students realize they have career opportunities outside of the metro area. "Students [in the UK] aren't any less smart or talented [than UNO students]," Allen said. "It's possible to break out of Omaha... and even the United States." Criminal justice students on this year's trip got to experience that concept firsthand as their group was led by two former students,

see **LONDON:** Page 4



courtesy of Chris Allen

UNO students and faculty gather together in front of an English castle.

might as well be America's older brother. "Over the years we've seen a number of changes," Wakefield said. "Our [systems]

a communications senior. "But seeing it firsthand, and visiting firms with such high

Fund A Refunds

Fund A refund forms for the summer semester are available in the administrative offices of the Milo Bail Student Center.

June 19
through
June 23

Students living arrangements vary

ALLISON MEIER
STAFF WRITER

Finals have finished up and parking is unbelievably easy to get. Yes, it is finally summer vacation, but many UNO students have stayed in the Omaha area.

There are several different residences that UNO students inhabit: the dorms, apartments, houses and, of course, home. But why do they choose these places?

As we all know, funds and time are very tight throughout college, so saving money and not wasting what time we do have is key to our decisions. Several UNO students found reasons why they live where they do.

It is becoming increasingly more accepting to stay at home as long as you can. There is free food, utilities, easy parking and convenient laundry.

Senior Drew Hanson has a very different reason.

"I work two full-time jobs and try to have a good social life," Hanson said.

"I am at my parent's house to eat and sleep, so why would I pay to eat and sleep somewhere else when I can do it for free?"

Hanson has lived in a fraternity house and had the experience of being on his own. In fact, many students decide to move home after a few years on their own.

"It just makes sense," Hanson said.



photo by Patrick Doty

UNO student Kenton McBride is living in the University Village dorms this summer.

Sophomore Stacey Moore believes she has it made. She works full-time as a nanny and goes to UNO full-time.

"I don't live at home anymore, but I'm not yet on my own either," she said. "I've got the best of both worlds. I moved in with the family I nanny for. I love it. I'm away from home but still saving to be on my own. It's fun and I get to save money. Live-in nannies are in demand all over the country and now rising in the Omaha area. It is a great way to live throughout college. Live for free and get paid to do so."

For many students a nine-month lease is nearly impossible to find. That's where the twelve-month lease comes into play: Students stay where they are because they have to.

"There is no way I could live at home during the summer or any time," said senior Elizabeth Einspar. "I love my one roommate, gym, my freedom and, of course, the pool."

The dorms are also very popular now. In fact, Jonathan

Orlich, property manager of Scott Village, said, "Less than 10 percent of the students empty out over the summer. Scott Hall does, but Scott Village keeps very busy."

UNO students live all over the place and summer is no different.

Sophomore Ally Grier, who lives at Scott Village, said, "I'm still away from home, my lease is up in July and it's real close to work."

Nebraska Board of Regents KUDOS award in April, is also an honored program within the University of Nebraska system.

If it is up to the faculty members currently leading the classes, they will keep it going as long as possible.

"This year I've had one or two [students] say it's one of the greatest experiences they've had," Allen said. "I'm really glad we offer it."

Students interested in participating in next year's trip can contact Wakefield, Allen or Neathery-Castro. Recruiting for the trip occurs during the same time as normal class registration, though class seats are limited and available only with teacher permission.

From ASSAULT: Page 2

a position to respond much faster than the Omaha Police, because we're so close."

Campus Security offers 24-hour escorts and periodic safety checks to individuals on campus. Requests for escorts can be made by calling 554-2648.

Editor's note: Gateway policy is to withhold names and graphic details from published reports of sexual assaults and similar crimes. Although that information was included in the public records we obtained, it was withheld to protect the victims' right to privacy.

From SLAPPING: Page 1

be taken against him," Butler said. "If Tom wasn't [at the university], I don't know if I would come back. He's been a lot for me, as a student. He's been very supportive."

Robertson was disappointed by the university's decision. "The university is not

just accountable to me, but to the people of Nebraska and I urge [voters] to keep this in mind when they go to vote for Board of Regents next time."

Attempts to contact Gouttierre were unsuccessful.

From VOLLEYBALL: Page 2

Thompson, no relation to the deceased, was cited for suspicion of supplying alcohol to a minor and Beckman was cited for suspicion of aiding and abetting the purchase.

Foreman, the owner of the home in Hickman where the party took place, was cited for suspicion of procuring alcohol for a minor. The charge came after extensive interviewing of people who were at the



Shelly Thompson

gathering.

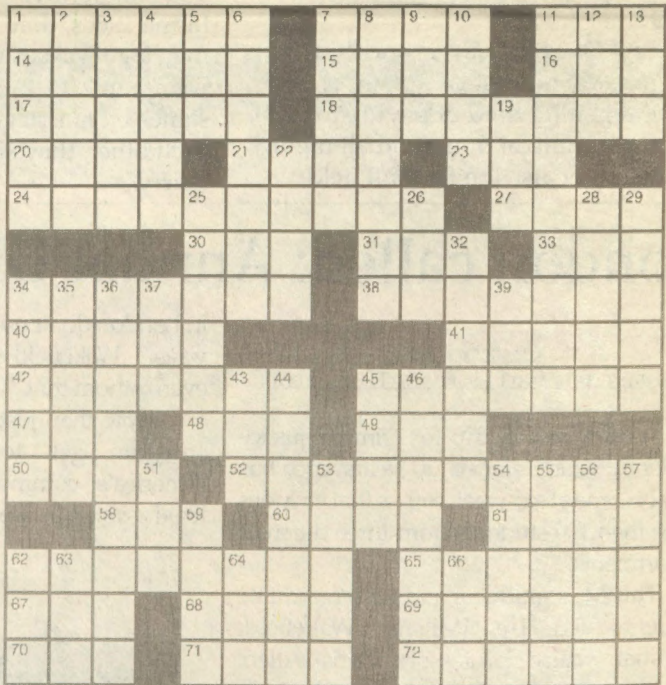
Thompson's boyfriend, 19-year-old Daniel Deaver, was ticketed at the time of the accident for suspicion of being a minor in possession of alcohol and driving with a blood alcohol content above the .02 percent limit for minors.

Thompson's drinking is believed to have contributed to the fall, according to the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office.

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Lessons
 - 7 Thunder sound
 - 11 Links score
 - 14 Impolitely
 - 15 Parasitic pests
 - 16 Ginger
 - 17 Big name in burglar alarms
 - 18 Liquid appetizer
 - 20 Cookie snack
 - 21 Veteran sailors
 - 23 Disfigure
 - 24 Songs with repetitive refrains
 - 27 Cairo's river
 - 30 Little devil
 - 31 Neither partner?
 - 33 Crow's cry
 - 34 Blockhead
 - 38 Powerful poison
 - 40 Open roughly
 - 41 Candidate
 - 42 Weight watchers
 - 45 Walks unsteadily
 - 47 Nibbled on
 - 48 Canape spread
 - 49 Raw mineral
 - 50 Blackjacks
 - 52 Dries out
 - 58 Back of a bus
 - 60 Fragrant bloom
 - 61 M. Descartes
 - 62 Collapse into a faint
 - 65 Give a new score
 - 67 Orbiting loc.
 - 68 Kudrow or Alther
 - 69 Rubbed out
 - 70 Wrestlers' pad
 - 71 Miss Trueheart
 - 72 Laundry machines

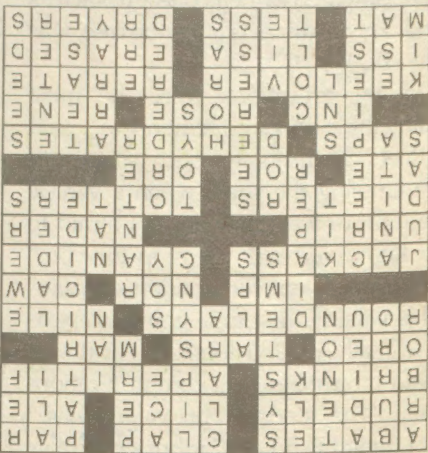
- DOWN
- 1 Shady bower
 - 2 Grand Canyon transportation
 - 3 Au revoir!
 - 4 Mortise's counterpart
 - 5 Antlered grazer
 - 6 All go!
 - 7 Bow or Barton
 - 8 Mouth the words
 - 9 Top pitcher
 - 10 Salon do
 - 11 Oedipus' crime
 - 12 Title role for Will Smith
 - 13 Arena official
 - 19 Charleson or McKellen
 - 22 Swiss peaks
 - 25 Nursery pants
 - 26 Salty sauce
 - 28 Dock worker
 - 29 Water pitchers
 - 32 Hysterical speaker
 - 34 Insidious betrayer
 - 35 Writer Loos
 - 36 Most macabre
 - 37 D.I.Y. buy
 - 39 Writer Hentoff
 - 43 Laver of tennis
 - 44 Prescient woman
 - 45 Santa's sackful
 - 46 Logically arranged



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- 56 Be admitted
- 57 Burpee order
- 59 Stable youngster
- 62 Kipling book
- 63 Continental NASA partner
- 64 Contend
- 66 Do wrong



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Nacho Libre only for die-hard Jack Black fans

RYAN RAKOWSKY
STAFF WRITER

From *Orange County* to *Shallow Hal*, Jack Black can be outlandishly funny in the right role. Unfortunately, the titular role in *Nacho Libre* isn't one of them. That is, unless your idea of a good time involves bathroom humor and lines like "Your only job is to cook. Do you not realize I have had diarrhea since Eaters?" And no, that's not a typo; several jokes in the movie are centered on the Mexican characters' inability to master the English language.

Black is Ignacio, a well-intentioned but continually criticized former orphan who

Nacho Libre sometimes seems like a live-action cartoon, but some of the characterizations are so extreme they border on racist.

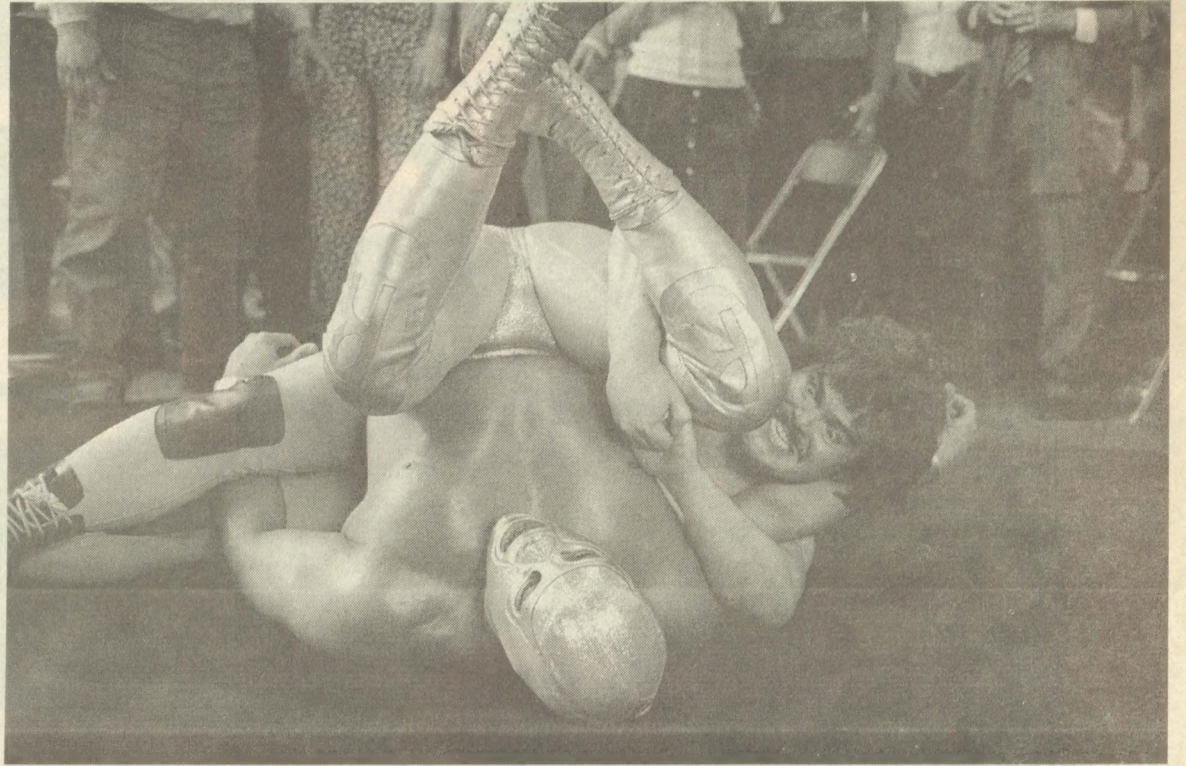
now cooks for the Catholic orphanage where he grew up. We see Ignacio when he was a child, as he is putting together a luchador's (a type of Mexican wrestler) costume, using a tablecloth for the cape and prayer beads to spell out "Nacho," and other assorted materials from around the orphanage. Years later, tired of being cut down by his brothers

for every little mistake he makes, Ignacio is finally given the motivation to realize his dream of being a luchador.

Of course, Ignacio has the standard sidekick best buddy to help him along the way, his tag-team partner Esqueleto, the usual woman rooting for his success, a new nun to the orphanage, Sister Encarnación and the requisite nemesis, a gold-faced wrestler named Ramses, who is such a meanie he won't even sign autographs for a group of smiling, admiring orphans.

Nacho Libre sometimes seems like a live-action cartoon, but some of the characterizations are so extreme they border on racist. Most characters in the film can't seem to complete a sentence without at least one glaring grammatical error. With few exceptions, any character in the movie who doesn't come across as a bumbling fool is portrayed as a sinister brute.

Esqueleto sews costumes for himself



Paramount Pictures

Jack Black wrestles his arch nemesis Ramses in *Nacho Libre*, the new film that has Black playing the title character.

and Ignacio to wear to a wrestling party that look straight out of the 17th century, replete with lacy cuffs and scarves. Esqueleto himself is a dirty vagabond who originally meets Ignacio by stealing a bag of chips intended for the orphans.

Occasionally, a funny line or sight gag does pop up, as when Ignacio is training to be a luchador and he hangs a red cape in front of a bull, only to be knocked on his

back a few seconds later, or when he chucks a beehive at Esqueleto to refine his partner's reaction time. Unfortunately, these highlights are not enough to sustain the movie.

Nacho Libre is one of Black's lesser efforts. It's not as terrible as the trailers would lead one to expect, but this a film only Black's most die-hard fans will enjoy.

Grade: C-

Rumor Has It...

ANDREW CUMBEE
ARTS AND LEISURE EDITOR

Can you believe it? We are already halfway through the 2006 blockbuster movie season. May and June flew by with nothing to show but box-office bomb (*Mission: Impossible III*) after fan disappointment (*X-Men: The Last Stand*) after forgettable popcorn flick (*The Omen*). So far, this summer has left a lot to be desired.

But not to fear ... the best is yet to come. *Superman Returns*, while almost invisible on the hype scale, has been generating wonderful advanced screening reviews. We also still have *Pirates of the Caribbean 2*, the new M. Night Shyamalan film, *Clerks II*, *Miami Vice*, a Will Ferrell comedy and, putting a definite end to the 2006 summer movie season ... what will undoubtedly be the greatest film of all time ... *Snakes on a Plane*.

Summer is Hollywood's season. Not only are the movie releases huge and anticipated (even if they aren't good), but the studios start leaking more and more information about future projects for the "geek season." This year is no different, so without any further ado...

"I...am...Iron...Man..."

The new *Iron Man* movie finally has a director and has been officially confirmed as a real movie (for those of you keeping score, *Iron Man* has been in development hell for years and years and years). That director is none other than Jon Favreau. Yup, the guy that's probably most famous for being Vince Vaughn's friend. He also directed *Elf*, *Zathura*, and *Swingers*, if you didn't know.

The significant part of this story is this -- according to Favreau's myspace.

com page, this is Marvel's first self-produced film. Marvel recently set up its own film company, meaning that they will produce all of their movies and bypass all studio-ruining involvement (like the stuff that ruined *Daredevil* and *X-Men 3*). But wait, there's more...

So at the time of the *Iron Man* announcement, Marvel also revealed that its second self-produced film will be *The Hulk*. Right now it looks like this new *Hulk* is not a sequel or a remake. We'll get more info later.

Rumors are all over the place right now about the major change in how these movies will be done. Some say *X-Men 3* was the last so that they could restart that franchise somewhere down the line and do it "the Marvel way." There's also rumor of Silver Surfer in *Fantastic Four 2*, along with a new villain (Thanos, perhaps?).

And yet another slasher film...

Except this sounds cool as hell. Rob Zombie announced (on what is quickly becoming the new trend in movie announcements) on his myspace.com page that he will, in fact, be doing the next *Halloween* movie.

This is yet another of the horror film remakes that are becoming too apparent, like *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, *The Amityville Horror*, and the future versions of *The Hitcher* and *Friday the 13th*.

This is so interesting for *Halloween* fans, Rob Zombie fans and general horror fans. Expect something completely different next October.

Well, that's it for this edition. If *Snakes on a Plane* can't save us this summer, 2006 still holds some hope. We still have *Casino Royale* and *Rocky Balboa* to look forward to in November and December, respectively. Until next time...

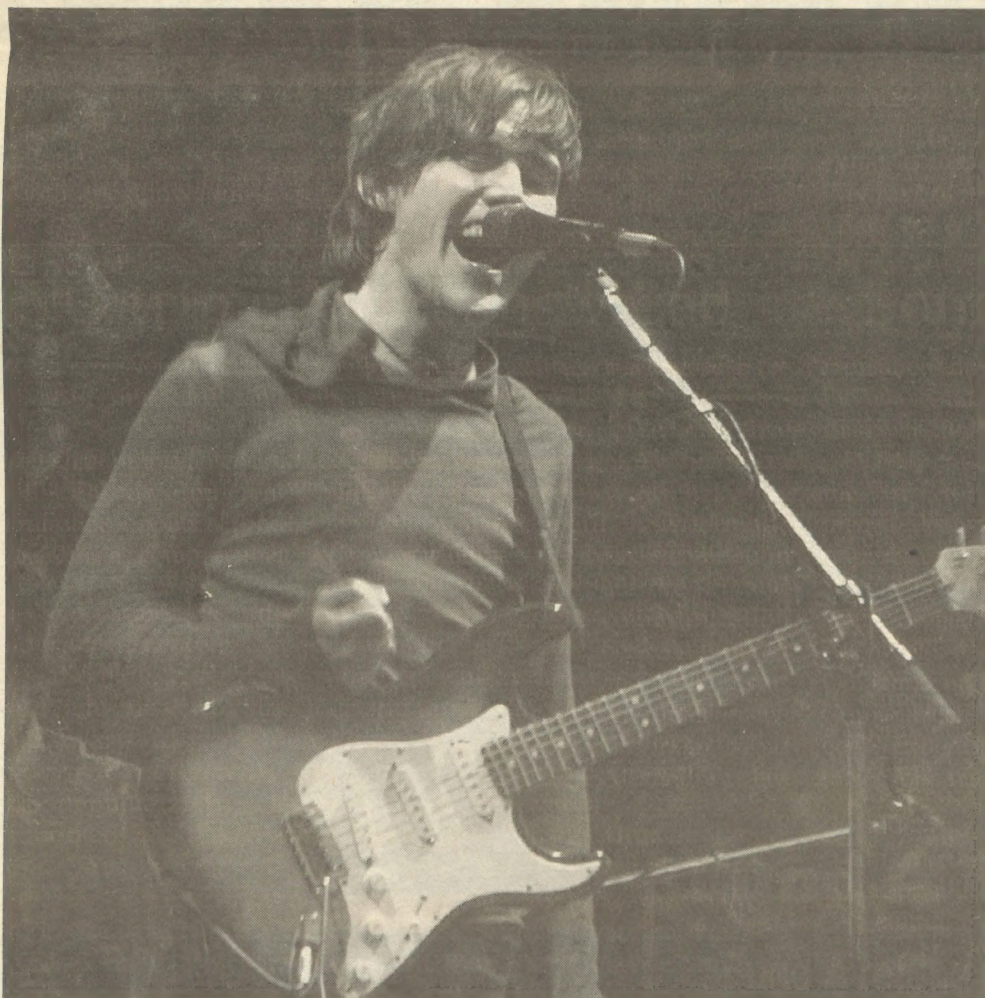


photo by Patrick Dowty

The rain didn't stop Bright Eyes, Conor Oberst, as he performed at a free concert in Memorial Park on June 17.

Comments?
Concerns?
Complaints?

Write the Editor at
editor@gateway.unomaha.edu

Horse beats girl, unfortunately

On May 6, Barbaro won the Kentucky Derby by 6 ½ lengths, the most convincing win since the 1946 Derby. Sadly, Barbaro's racing career is now over.

On May 20, the United States was struck with tragedy. Barbaro, this year's hopeful to win the Triple Crown, broke his right hind leg during the Preakness Stakes after taking only approximately four strides. The nation collectively gasped as Barbaro's leg flared out and he had to stop racing, killing the chances for a Triple Crown win this year.

Fortunately, the vets at the University of Pennsylvania's hospital were able to repair the damage to the three bones with a metal plate, screws and a fiberglass cast. After the surgery, his survival was categorized as a "coin flip," but Barbaro has been making steady progress towards recovery.

For the better part of the next two weeks, we were bombarded with the news of Barbaro's condition at that exact moment. We knew how the surgery went, how his owners/trainer felt, even what day the jockey planned to visit him. I could have been satisfied with watching the SportsCenter highlight and going about my life, but that's just me.

Oh, and one more thing: I don't care.

On June 1, 13-year-old Katharine Close spelled the word "ursprache" to win the 79th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee. Close was one of 275 participants, the highest number of participants yet, and won the bee in 20 rounds.

Unfortunately, I didn't find the news about the win on the front page of the paper. Or the second, or the third. You get the idea. So why is an injured horse more important

news than the National Spelling Bee winner? Before you answer, consider a few numbers.

Close is the first girl to win the National Spelling Bee since 1999. This was her fifth year competing in the bee. If that doesn't describe unbelievable dedication, I don't know what does.

To win, Close had to finish in the top 90 out of one written and one oral round. From the third round on, the competition is as we see it on TV. One by one, contestants spell words in single-elimination format until only one speller remains. Out of those 20 rounds, the last seven were one-on-one competition.

That takes guts. There is no doubt in my mind that Close will one day become one of the most influential leaders in this country.

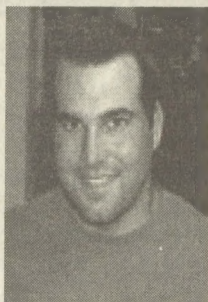
How do I know? Last August, I had the pleasure of listening to a short address by 2005 Scripps winner Anurag Kashyap at the 2005 Sigma Phi Epsilon Conclave. Although he only spoke for a few minutes, I got the definite impression that he was one of the most motivated, intelligent and admirable people I've ever seen. To be honest, I didn't know it was possible to listen to a 13-year-old speak and then feel bad about how much I haven't accomplished.

These kids, along with other remarkable people all over the country, are getting swept under the rug for so-called "sympathy" and "interest" stories.

Are they saying an injured horse is more important than America's future leaders? Give me a break.

All comments are welcome at
lance.t.allen@gmail.com

Give me a break



Lance Allen

Defend this: Marriage act is blatantly bigoted, unkind

Defending marriage sounds like a good idea. The notion is really romantic, actually. White horses, brave knights and the like. It conjures images of Wesley rolling down the hillside yelling to Buttercup "as you wish," in *The Princess Bride*.

Too bad in the U. S. Congress it is nothing more than thinly-veiled bigotry.

The Defense of Marriage Act seeks to prevent Americans from marrying as they see fit. It will apply religious dogma to basic freedoms. It is designed to blatantly discriminate against homosexual Americans just because they are gay. Anyone

in support of the Defense of Marriage Act is essentially saying to the international community that the United States is in support of bigotry and hatred; that we are in support of a moral caste system that can turn on anyone with the turn of a catchy, romantic phrase.

There is a reason people came to North America: to not be subjected to someone else's overbearing religious beliefs. For any group to place legal sanctions against another there must be a legal reasoning, not a moral one because morals are relative. Doing so, insults every deadly winter or treacherous sea passage made

see **BITTER WITH AGE**: Page 8

Bitter with Age



Angi Sada

How Typical – Who cares?

I often wonder why we are who we are. Why I'm gay, you're straight, I'm white, you're black—why some people slide through life with ease while others barely make it from day to day. It never seems fair, but what in life is?

Ever since I moved up to New York, the rhythm of my life has made quite a drastic change. I'm no longer Mike the gay guy, I'm just Mike. Things like my sexuality, color and religion don't seem to matter anymore. I see men holding hands on a daily basis, women embracing each other on the streets and every religion imaginable preaching their good news to anyone interested in listening.

New York truly is a melting pot, a mixture of all the good things in life that some of us don't believe in, but all things worth giving a try.

I'm not going to try and deny it, I truly miss Nebraska. I miss my friends, my family, my apartment and more than anything, the fries they sell at Runza, as shocking as it may sound, Runza doesn't exist in New York. Though I miss home, I really don't have any desire to go back.

It's shameful when I read the paper and see that Nebraska's Ben Nelson is fighting to ban same-sex marriage, and when I remember the way people look in disgust when a male couple tries to hold hands in public. It's just not fair.

When I tell people in New York that I'm from Nebraska I get a mixed reaction. A part of them looks at me with sympathetic eyes while the other half assumes that I haven't experienced life. I guess both reactions are justifiable.

Looking at Nebraska from the outside is quite different than looking at it from within. I asked one of my friends up here what he thought of Nebraska; he laughed and said "You have the Cornhuskers and probably lots of cows." His reaction may sound humorous,

but it holds truth. Honestly, it seems as if the only good thing Nebraska is known for is its football team (and we all know that is nothing to be proud of anymore).

I'm from Nebraska and know very well all the good that it possesses. However, how can we expect anyone else to have a clue? The only time we hear Nebraska in the news is when our conservative train of thought or conservative leaders get a small mention.

Nebraska is a great state. We're the home of the College World Series. We have beautiful scenery and beautiful residents with big hearts. My only wish is that one day our views and values can be as welcoming as our state. Instead of preaching the importance of

a man marrying a woman, perhaps we should preach the importance of a man marrying someone he loves. Instead of segregating our children by school districts, why can't we understand the importance of intermixing cultures?

If I bring anything back from New York I think it's going to be a sense of carelessness. I'm not going to care what people think about my sexuality, what they say when I protest an anti-gay

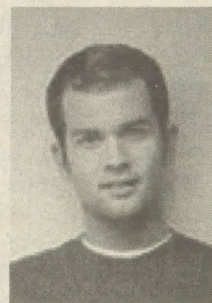
movement or how they look at me when I hold hands with another man.

Why should I?

The looks and comments that my actions generate only feed the stereotypes that everyone has about our state. I know I'm not the only one who feels this way, so it's up to us to make the change that our politicians and state leaders obviously can't seem to understand.

So instead of wondering why we are who we are, let's start being careless about it. Who cares why I became gay or why you were born black or with a handicap. Let's embrace our differences and show others that Nebraskans aren't as close-minded as they may assume.

How Typical



Michael McManus

Letter to editor

It's not uncommon for a professor to joke around with their students, especially the approachable ones that care like Dean Gouttierre. I was very shocked, to say the least, to see this in news, let alone seeing who was accusing him. Tyler Hanson said it best when he said Dean Gouttierre likes to joke around; all of his students know that. I also know that from working with him for almost two years. The people that know me know if he was ever out of line with any students I would have been the first person in line complaining.

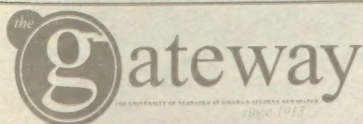
Being a non-traditional student, I have had a few problems with my professors as well. Like any adult, I went to the source of my problem first, the professor, and tried to get a resolution. The fact that Vanessa chose not to speak with Dean Gouttierre about the fact that she was offended by his gesture makes me wonder what her motives are. I know her personally. [I've] seen her around the office a lot, even to visit with me at times to say hello. Some people like to joke and there are some people that cannot take jokes. I have had to learn that firsthand.

Is this allegation grounds to fire a

professor like Tom Gouttierre? No. He is the first person to make sure all his students are on point when it comes to academics and even cares when there are personal issues. College is the place where you come to learn from and actually have a chance to get to know your professors individually. Dean Gouttierre creates this kind of atmosphere both in the classroom and in his office.

I consider both Vanessa Robertson and Dean Gouttierre friends, and people I can go to even after I graduate for advice or just a friendly lunch. In college, I have learned at least one thing, and that is that if I have a problem with an adult and my life is not threatened then it's best to solve problems between the two parties. Many times professors were unaware that they offended me and did what they could to make sure it didn't happen again with me or any other student. If there was a lesson to learn on both sides, it could have been learned behind closed doors. Many times it saves a friendship and clears up misunderstandings.

Quinee Butler, CEO
Reggaetonline.net



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Students, community members honored in spring commencement



Left: Stephanie Hobbs is congratulated by UNO Chancellor Nancy Belck after receiving her degree.

Right: Students wait anxiously to receive their degrees during the spring commencement ceremony.

photos by
Michelle Bishop



ELIZABETH ZIELINSKI

STAFF WRITER

More than 1260 students received their degrees Friday, May 5. Sharon Schneidewind with the University registrar's office said 846 graduates participated in commencement exercises at the Omaha Civic Auditorium.

Jane Splittgerber delivered the student commencement address. She also received a bachelor of science degree

in education, with endorsements in K-12 physical education and coaching. She will begin teaching at Bryan High School in Omaha later this year.

In addition to the graduates, many members of the community and faculty were honored. Mary Laura Farnham, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research, received the Chancellor's Medal for her work providing support and guidance to faculty and staff as they pursue external support for research.

The UNO Alumni Association Citation of Alumnus Achievement was awarded to Michael D. Jones of the law firm Ellick, Jones, Buelt, Blazek and Longo. A member of the Omaha, Neb., and American Bar Associations, Jones has been listed as one of the "Best Lawyers in America" yearly since 1989.

Jun Kaneko, a sculptural ceramics artist, was the recipient of an honorary doctorate of humane letters. His work, which is often influenced by Zen ideology and Asian aesthetics, has been

exhibited around the world in shows and public collections. He established his studio in Omaha in 1990.

The Order of the Tower, UNO's highest non-academic award, was given to Stephen Wild. Wild has been chairman and founder of First Financial Group Inc., Financial Dynamics Inc., Securities America Inc. and chairman of Quantum Alliance since 1979. He has also been involved with several University of Nebraska search committees.

From **BITTER WITH AGE**: Page 7

to what was bound to become the most shining example of democracy in the history of the world.

Until this.

This is one of the most shameful debates in the history of our beautiful country. And it's a smokescreen designed by George W. Bush's handlers to distract Americans from the bigger issues at hand.

We are chest deep into a war that appears to have no end in sight. The cost of living in some areas of the nation is so high

that we are seeing bank foreclosure signs all over the place. Students aren't able to keep up academically on the international scene. Gas prices are bubbling up over the \$3 mark in the Heartland, traditionally one of the cheapest areas to fill up. That's not good news for a nation that is as dependent on fossil fuels as Joan Rivers is on cosmetic surgery.

The last thing that needs to happen to this country is deeper division, especially if those divisions are to be rooted in someone else's

religious dogma. The notion that the Holy Bible should be the basis of all lawmaking in the land is ethnocentric poppycock.

All Americans are granted equal protection under the law and the only time in modern-day America that we see restrictions on an American's rights is when they are convicted of a felony. A convicted rapist does not have the right to vote, but unlike his gay non-raping counterpart, he can get married and have a family without any Congressional scrutiny.

My father donned a uniform for more than 20 years to protect the rights of all Americans, not just the ones who live the way he lives. Or the way the current administration says is right. If that is how democracy will be doled out in the Bush administration then everyone who is not a former cocaine-sniffing, C- student, trust-fund baby should probably not even bother falling in love, let alone try to marry someone.

Really romantic, huh?

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